



McGREGOR W. SCOTT

*United States Attorney
Eastern District of California*

NEWS RELEASE

Sacramento
501 I Street, Suite 10-100
Sacramento, CA 95814
Tel 916/554-2700
TTY 916/554-2877

Fresno
2500 Tulare Street, Suite 4401
Fresno, CA 93721
Tel 559/497-4000
TTY 559/497-4500

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

October 27, 2008

Docket #: 1:08-cr-00159-OWW

Contact: Karen Escobar
559/497-4000

<http://www.usdoj.gov/usao/cae>

FAKE DEA AGENT SENTENCED TO 2 YEAR PRISON TERM

FRESNO—United States Attorney McGregor W. Scott and Drug Enforcement Administration (“DEA”) Special Agent in Charge Javier F. Peña announced today that BRETT MICHAEL PETERSEN, 20, of Selma, California, was sentenced to 2 years in prison for transmitting threatening communications.

The case is the product of an investigation conducted by the Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA), Selma Police Department, and Kingsburg Police Department with assistance from the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) and the Social Security Administration, Office of Inspector General.

PETERSEN’s conviction followed his guilty plea on August 11, 2008. PETERSEN admitted in his plea that he knowingly and intentionally transmitted threatening text messages while he was impersonating a DEA agent. The messages included, “I put it on my badge the s--- ur in will all hit u at once with nothing u can do,” and, “If you see a black crown victoria its 2 late don’t bother trying.”.

Senior United States District Judge Oliver W. Wanger previously found PETERSEN to be a “one man crime wave,” and ordered him detained without bail as a danger to the community. The Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals affirmed Judge Wanger’s finding and order.

In sentencing PETERSEN, Judge Wanger considered relevant conduct which indicated that PETERSEN had solicited others, including a minor female and a thirteen year old boy, to go on “ride alongs” with him while he was impersonating a DEA agent. PETERSEN showed them methamphetamine which he had allegedly seized while impersonating an agent. DEA does not offer

ride-alongs and does not allow agents to maintain drug evidence in their personal possession.

Judge Wanger also considered letters submitted on PETERSEN's behalf by members of the Selma Fire Department, who blamed PETERSEN's actions on his addiction to methamphetamine. PETERSEN had previously served as a Fire Explorer for the Selma Fire Department. Judge Wanger ordered PETERSEN to participate in a correctional treatment program to obtain assistance for drug abuse.

###